

~~TOP SECRET DINAR VENONA~~

Reissue (T11)

From: NEW YORK
To: MOSCOW
No: 1619-1620

20 November 1944

[Part I] To VIKTOR[1].

Your telegram No. 4582[a]. Felix SOMARY, an Austrian of Jewish origin, became a Catholic, married to an Austrian Catholic; was a financial advisor to the German government during the last war, broke with the Kaiser on the question of submarine warfare.

SOMARY is a partner in the firm BLANKART and Company (Geneva and Zurich)[ii] together with Jacques BLANK[iii] and Arthur EITLER[iv]. The Vice-Consul of the COUNTRY[v] in Zurich is an official of NABOB's[v] Department. OSTROW[vi] in his time consulted SOMARY about financial questions. S. is reported to be a friend of Archduke OTTO and he assisted a commission headed by General BUTTERWORTH[vii]

[20 groups unrecoverable]

S. was a member of the German Finance Control Commission in Belgium where he was an associate of SCHACHT[viii]. He was subsequently associated with a German bank in Tokyo.

S. left Germany before 1939 and settled in Switzerland, from there in 1939 he travelled to the COUNTRY[iv] on a Swiss passport. After that he returned to Switzerland and again went to the COUNTRY in 1941 via the COUNTRYSIDE [DEREVNYA][ix] on a Swiss quota visa. According to information dated February this year S. is advising TOWNSMEN [GOROZHAN][x], firms and corporations in respect of claims against Germany [5 groups unrecovered] their property in Axis territory.

[Part II]

It is reported that from time to time S. submits a report on his activities to NABOB's Department[v]. He also frequently consults, they say, with Leon FRASER, (former head of the Bank for International Settlements) who spent a considerable part of the war in Switzerland.

S. is reported also to have been associated with CALIPH [KALIF][xi]. He is represented by a lawyer of the firm WILLKIE, OWEN and GALLAGHER[xii]. There was information that S. is an unofficial representative of SCHACHT and of German industrial-financial circles in the COUNTRY.

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ROBERT[xiii] received this information from the
FELLOW-COUNTRYMAN [ZEMLYAK][xiv] Norman BURSLER[xv]

[16 groups unrecoverable]

---MAN[b] irregularly since the other fears for his own safety
and [C% is reluctant to come to our aid.]

[8 groups unrecovered]

Later [C% NORMAN] will try to find out in detail about S. and
his activities.

No. 908

MAY[MAJ][xvi].

Notes: [a] Not available.

[b] ---MAN: This may be NORMAN, i.e., Norman BURSLER.

Comments:

[i] VIKTOR: Lt. Gen. P. M. FITZH.

[ii] i.e. BLANKART & Cie.

[iii] Jacques BLANKART and Arthur REITLER are the correct
renderings of these names.

[iv] the COUNTRY: U.S.A.

[v] HABOB: Henry MORGENTHAU Jr., U.S. Secretary of the
Treasury.

[vi] Mr. Walter W. OSTROW, U.S. Vice-Consul in Zurich.

[vii] Gen. J.E. BUTTERWORTH, Chief of the Conservation Branch,
Services of Supply, United States Army.

[viii] Dr. Hjalmar SCHACHT, head of the German Reichsbank.

[ix] the COUNTRYSIDE: Mexico.

[x] TOWNSMEN: United States citizens.

[xi] CALIF: William Christian BULLITT, U.S. Ambassador to
France 1936-1941.

[xii] This is actually the firm of SILKIE, OWEN, OTIS, FARR
and GALLAGHER.

[xiii] ROBERT: Nathan Gregory SILVERMASTER.

[xiv] FELLOWCOUNTRYMAN: Member of the Communist party.

[xv] Norman Chandler BURSLER, expert in the Anti-Trust
Division of the Department of Justice.

[xvi] MAY: Stepan Zal'darovitch APHESYAN, Soviet Vice-Consul
in New York.

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